

Knox Brick House
914 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County
California

HABS No. CAL-244

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Western Office, Division of Design and Construction
450 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California

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PHOTOGRAPH-DATA BOOK REPORT
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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KNOX BRICK HOUSE

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REPORT

Prepared by David Gebhard, August 1965

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Jack E. Boucher, Photographer, October 1960

NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS
DETAIL OF FIREPLACE (North Wall)
WEST ELEVATION (ca. 1880 - Rephoto)

SKETCH OF PLAN by David Gebhard, August 1, 1965

Knox Brick House

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Part I: HISTORICAL INFORMATION.

- A. Name: Dr. Samuel Budd Page Knox Brick House
- B. Location: 914 Anacapa Street,
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif.
- C. Present owner: Mr. and Mrs. T. Suski
- D. Present occupant: Main portion of house rented to
Don Quinn Real Estate.
North wing presently unoccupied.
- E. Present use: Office building.
- F. Brief statement of significance: The basically symmetrical plan and the symmetrical street facade represent a conservative carry-over from the eastern sections of the country. The low pitched shed roof, hidden behind the front and side brick parapets, and the original small wood entrance porch were highly fashionable features of the mid to late 19th century.
- G. Physical History:
 - 1. Ownership: The house was built in 1871 for Jose Lobero for the use of his mother-in-law. In 1875 it and the small Ventura Pico adobe to the rear were purchased by Dr. Samuel Budd Page Knox. Knox, who had been a surgeon in the Civil War, was born in Brownsville, Pa. He came to Santa Barbara in 1875. In addition to his own private medical practice he was the surgeon in charge of the Santa Barbara County Hospital between the years 1879-1884; 1890-1891; and again in 1893. After the death of Dr. Knox the building remained in the hands of his daughter Mrs. Gertrude Knox Feeley. In 1954 Mrs. Feeley renovated the house and changed it into an office building. In late 1964, the house along with the Pico Adobe were acquired by T. Suski.
 - 2. History of Ownership: Jose Lobero, 1871-1875; Dr. Samuel Knox, 1875- ? ; remained in Knox family; now owned by T. Suski.
 - 3. Date of erection: 1871
 - 4. Name of Architect: unknown.
 - 5. Description of original structure: The evidence of the plan and other structural details of the existing building would seem to argue that

the original house was a central hall five room structure measuring 35' 2" across the front and 26' 4" in depth, with a wing projecting off the rear northeast corner. The walls of this section of the house are identical in thickness (1' 0") and they appear to be contiguous. Perhaps after Dr. Knox purchased the house in 1875 the front and/or the rear rooms of the north wood structured brick veneered wing was added. Some time too in the late 19th century the wood front entrance porch was removed. Also several wood frame additions were made to the rear southeastern portion of the house. The date of the latter additions is presently unknown. The sequence, though, can be ascertained. First a room was added between the south wall of the original brick rear wing and the rear wall of the main portion of the house. A bath appears to have been added next, projecting from the southwest corner of this addition. Finally a kitchen and an entry storage room were placed at the southeast rear of the house. During these changes a north window and a south door of the original brick wing to the rear were blocked up, and a bath (with skylight) and passage were carved out of the rear brick wing. Sometime during these remodelings the double casement windows of the main portion of the house were replaced with double hung windows.

6. Historic events and person connected with the structure: The first owner of the house, Jose Lobero , was one of the most interesting personalities of late 19th century Santa Barbara. It was he who built the original Lobero Theatre, which was situated directly across Anacapa Street from the Knox Brick house. Dr. Knox was a prominent medical figure in Santa Barbara.
7. Published and unpublished views.
 - a. (part of the house may barely be seen over the roof of the Lobero Theatre) in the ca. 1887 panoramic view of Santa Barbara, printed in Santa Barbara; in the collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara.
 - b. Photograph of street(west) facade of house, undated; taken in late 19th century; collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara.
 - c. Photograph representing a general view of Anacapa Street, with the Knox Brick house visible in the center, undated; taken after the above photograph, late 19th century. Collection of the Santa Barbara Historical Society, Santa Barbara.

- d, Recent (1955) photograph of house (street or west facade) published in Santa Barbara News Press, June 5, 1955.

8. References:

Santa Barbara New Press

June 5, 1955

June 6, 1962

David Gebhard
August 6, 1965

Part II: ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. Name: Dr. Samuel Budd Page Knox Brick House
Address: 914 Anacapa Street,
Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara County, Calif.
- B. Number of stories: one
- C. Type of wall structure:
1. Original house-- brick
2. Additions-- wood; wood with brick veneer.
- D. Layout: Original house, central hall type.
- E. General statement: Architectural interest and merit.
The house is unusual (at least for the Santa Barbara area) in coupling together such features as an early 19th century symmetrical plan and street face; a low pitched shed room hidden behind parapets on 3 sides, and wood and brick detailing which represent the Queen Anne fashion of the 1870's. The interior of the house is very puritanical and reserved.
- F. General Statement: Condition of the fabric.
In moderately good condition. The brick walls of the main portion of the house are now held together by metal tie bars. The wood section to the rear of the house were never very well built, and under the circumstances are in as good condition as can be expected.
- G. Detailed Description: General.
(see Part I: Description of original structure and subsequent remodelings, G. 1.)
- H. Overall dimensions (see attached plan)
1. Main section of house: west and east sides 35' 2"
north and south sides 26' 4"
2. Rear brick wing 15' 3" x 21' 9"
3. North wing 12' 2" x 27' 7"
4. Southeast wing 12' 10" x 29' 0"
- I. Foundations: Roughly cut stone under main section of house; both brick and stone used in other sections.
- J. Wall Construction:
1. Main section and original rear wing: 1' 0" load bearing brick walls, lime plastered on interior; originally left unpainted on exterior.
2. North wing: Wood stud, brick veneer (1 brick wide) over all or part of exterior; wood lath and lime plaster on interior.

3. Other additions: Wood stud; exterior covered with horizontal wood tongue and groove sheathing and/or vertical sheathing; interior wood lath and plaster.

K. Porches and Decks:

1. Original front entrance porch 3 steps (including porch floor) from ground; 2 thin square posts to each side; porch floor wood.
2. Rear Deck: 6" tongue and groove; apparently added at much later date.

- L. Chimneys: There were originally two brick chimneys on the house. One of these serviced the fireplace in the northwest room; the other serviced the stove in the original kitchen which was housed in the brick wing to the rear. When the southeast wood frame wing was added a third chimney was built into the existing brick wall.

M. Openings: Doorways and doors.

It is possible that one of the two doors now placed in the southeast rear kitchen (on its north side) may have been the front door of the house. The molding around the doors is entirely underdecorated.

N. Openings: Windows and shutters:

1. Windows of original house; double casement windows, divided by 3 very thin horizontal mullion bars.
2. Windows of brick veneered north wing: double hung, each sash divided by single vertical mullion.
3. Windows of later addition (same as above) except for 20th century window in the rear northeast kitchen (or north wall).

All windows are undecorated.

O. Roof: Shape, covering.

1. Original house and rear wing: Shed roof, slanting to rear (east side) surrounded by parapet on 3 sides.
2. Other additions: Shed roofs, all slanting to rear.

Covering: Original: unknown

Present: Built up composition roof ..

P. Roof: Cornice, eaves:

No cornice or eaves; originally at least the front facade (west side) of the house boasted of two decorative bands of brick work; the upper of these, five brick courses below the slightly projecting parapet top consisted of a series of corbel brackets. Below this, just above the lintels of the windows was a horizontal band composed of two slightly projecting

rows of brick, with alternating bricks projecting out between these two bands. Both of these decorative bands of brick moldings, plus the cantilevered top 5 brick courses have been replaced by plain brick work.

- Q. Roof: Dormers, cupolas: none
- R. Floor plans (see attached plan)
Original house:
Central hall: 4' 10" x 24' 4"
Northwest room: 13' 8" x 13' 8"
Northeast room: 10' 0" x 13' 8"
Southwest room: 1' 11" x 13' 8"
Southeast room: 1' 9" x 13' 8"
Rear wing: 15' 3" x 21' 9"
North wing: 12' 2" x 27' 7"
Southeast wing: 12' 10" x 29' 0" plus other projections
- S. Stairways: none
- T. Flooring: 1" x 6" tongue and groove fir throughout house.
- U. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Lime plaster on brick and on wood lath for walls; lime plaster on wood lath for ceiling.
- V. Interior doorways and doors: Plain undecorated wood trim around doors; all of the existing four panel doors, their locks and handles and their butt hinges appear to be original.
- W. Interior trim: Simple high wood base board and wood cornice in main rooms.
- X. Hardware (see "U" above)
- Y. Lighting: none original with house.
- Z. Heating:
1. Single fireplace in front northwest room (on north wall, see plan). Simple wood mantle with engaged wood piers to each side.
2. Stove for cooking in original rear brick walled rear wing.
3. High wall chimney provided for large rear wood frame addition.
- AA. Site: General.
The house is situated 13' 11" back from the present public side walk. Early photographs of the house show that the property contained about 100' of street frontage; in depth the property must have been 350' to 400' since it included the Ventura Pico Adobe. The

present wood fence which is placed just in front of a low wood retaining wall is all that remains of a fence which originally ran along the street frontage of the property.

BB Site:

The front of the house faces Anacapa Street (west). The area is now entirely commercial, although there are a number of historic buildings within the general area. Also the Lobero Theatre across the street with its set back from the street, provides a non-commercial visual atmosphere.

CC. Enclosures: White picket fence along street frontage of property.

DD. Outbuilding: One of the old 19th century photographs shows what appears to be an 8 sided lath covered open garden house, located just north of the north wing of the house. The Ventura Pico Adobe originally belonged to this house.

EE. Walks: A stone or concrete walk led up one step from the street to the wood steps of the entrance porch.

FF. Landscaping: Oldest picture shows two pepper trees, planted to each side of the entrance wall and a deciduous tree to the front of the north wing.

David Gebhard
August 6, 1965

APPROVED:

Charles S. Pope

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Supervising Architect, Historic Structures
Western Office, Design and Construction
National Park Service

DATE:

Sept 2, 1965